

Extract from *"The Fighting 10th"*, Adelaide, Webb & Son, 1936 by C.B.L. Lock;  
kindly supplied courtesy of the 10<sup>th</sup> Bn AIF Association Committee, April 2015.

## DAVEY, Phillip VC MM

Born 10 October 1896 in Unley, South Australia.

Son of William George DAVEY and Mother Elizabeth (nee O'NEILL).

Brother:

### **No.1456 Corporal Claude Davey MM**

(3rd reinforcements), who distinguished himself in the Le Barque attack on 24 February 1917 and was awarded the MM, and was subsequently killed in action at Bullecourt 6 May 1917.

He was educated at the Flinders Street and Goodwood Public Schools, and prior to joining the AIF was a driver by occupation.

On 22 December 1914 he enlisted in the AIF at Morphetville, as a Private, his regimental number being '1327', and was posted to the 2nd reinforcements of the 10th Battalion, with which he embarked at Melbourne on 2 February 1915 on board *HMAT A46 Clan MacGillivray*.

He proceeded to Egypt and later joined the 10th Battalion on the *Ionian* in Mudros Harbour on 10 April 1915.

He participated in the historic landing at ANZAC on 25 April 1915 and remained on the Peninsula until subsequently forced to evacuate with enteric fever, and proceeding to No.1 Australian General Hospital at Heliopolis, Egypt, was subsequently invalided to South Australia.

On 27 June 1916 at Melbourne, he re-embarked on board *HMAT A37 Barambah* with the 18th reinforcements of the 10th Battalion and proceeding to England joined the 10th Battalion in France during September 1916, before the 10th moved into the line at "Hill 60" in the Ypres Sector.

He remained with the 10th and at Warneton, Belgium, in the Messines Sector, on 3 January 1918, for an act of bravery was awarded the **MILITARY MEDAL**, which was promulgated in the London Gazette on 2 April 1918.

For his gallantry in the Merris Sector on 28 June 1918 he was awarded the **VICTORY CROSS**, which was promulgated in the London Gazette on 17 August 1918. He was the third and final member of the Battalion to win this coveted distinction. Whilst winning this decoration he was severely wounded, and finally leaving the Battalion proceeded to hospital at Weymouth, England.

Before leaving France he had attained the rank of Corporal, and subsequently returning to South Australia was discharged from the AIF on 24 February 1919.

On 25 August 1928 at Toorak, he married Eugene Agnes, daughter of Alfred James Tomlinson.

In 1935 was residing at No.144 Barton Terrace, North Adelaide, and was employed in the signal and telegraph section of the South Australian Railways.

General Sir W R Birdwood congratulated him upon winning the VC as follows:

*"Headquarters, 23 August 1918. Dear Corporal Davey, - I am very glad to have this opportunity of sending you my heartiest congratulations on the very high distinction you have gained in the award of the Victoria Cross in recognition of your exceptionally gallant and good work. While your platoon was consolidating a portion of the enemy line which had just been captured, the enemy pushed a machine gun forward under cover of a hedge, and at close range brought effective fire to bear upon your platoon. Alone, and in broad daylight, you moved forward in the face of direct fire, and attacked the gun with hand grenades, by means of which you put half the gun crew out of action. Having exhausted your supply of bombs you returned to the original jumping-off trench, secured a further supply, and again attacked the enemy gun. Although during this time the enemy had been reinforced, you succeeded in your task, killing the crew of eight Germans and capturing the gun. You then very promptly mounted the gun in the new post, and used it in repelling a determined counter-attack, in which I am so sorry that you were, I fear, severely wounded. As a result of your extremely gallant and determined action, the consolidation of a position of great importance was successfully completed, and heavy casualties in your platoon were averted. I sincerely trust that you are making satisfactory progress in hospital, and that you are not undergoing too much suffering. With good wishes, and again my war congratulations on your fine record in having gained the VC and MM. Signed W R Birdwood."*

Lieutenant-Colonel M Wilder-Neligan also forwarded him the following letter:

*"I wish to offer my sincere congratulations to you upon receiving the highest military honour which can be bestowed upon a soldier of Britain. Your career in the 10th Battalion has been marked throughout by keenness and efficiency to an unusually high degree. The especially fine work which secured the VC to you was only the culmination of a series of acts of coolness and bravery for which you have been noted in the past. News of your decoration is particularly pleasing to your comrades in the 10th, whose Best wishes are with you during your days of convalescence. The Corps, Divisional and Brigade Commanders also desire me to pass on their congratulations to you. Signed M Wilder-Neligan. 19 August 1918."*